

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

PRIME MINISTER: HONORARY DEGREES

Professor Carl Brunner of Rochester University, New Jersey, telephoned me today about the suggestion, which Professor Walters had mentioned to me, that Rochester University should confer an honorary degree on the Prime Minister.

I said that the Prime Minister had received several offers of honorary degrees since Oxford University had refused her one. She was grateful for these offers, but felt that there would be political overtones if she were to accept any of them, since it might be thought that they were a deliberate snub to Oxford University. She would therefore prefer to leave the question of honorary degrees aside for the time being. I suggested that Professor Brunner might reconsider the matter after the next Election or even when Mrs. Thatcher was eventually no longer Prime Minister. At that stage it would be easier for her to visit the Universities concerned in order to collect an honorary degree.

Professor Brunner said that he thoroughly understood this position, and would report to the President of his University.

F.R.B.

15 March 1985